



## Legislative Report

March 2, 2007

**H0073 – Financial Exploitation** - Strengthens the Vulnerable Adult law by allowing the court to order people who exploit a vulnerable adult to pay full restitution

*Status:* Passed House 69-0-1 on 2/19, in Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**H0094 – Vote By Mail** – Provides the option for county commissioners to adopt a vote-by-mail voting system. Polls will still be available in a few locations for those who choose to vote in person. This would apply to all primary, general, and special elections.

*Status:* Sent back to House State Affairs on 2/16

*Council Position:* Oppose

**H0165 – Birth Defect Notices Required in Liquor Stores** – Requires all liquor stores to place at least two notices in their store about the dangers of fetal alcohol syndrome caused by drinking alcohol while pregnant. Fiscal Impact is less than \$10,000.

*Status:* Passed House 56-13-1 on 2/28; currently in Senate Health and Welfare Committee

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**H0166 – Medicaid Fraud Control Unit** – Establishes an independent Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in the office of the Attorney General. It also authorizes the Attorney General and prosecuting attorneys to prosecute Medicaid fraud and explains the procedures and duties of the Medicaid Fraud Program.

*Status:* Passed House 69-0-1 on 2/28; **on second reading in Senate**

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**H0167 – Personal Assistance Services Agency Responsibilities** – Clarifies the difference between personal assistance service agencies and fiscal intermediate agencies. Amends current law and establishes that agencies may provide either personal assistance services, fiscal intermediate services, or both.

*Status:* **Passed House 66-0-4 on 3/08, in Senate Health & Welfare**

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**HCR008 – Human Rights, Diversity** – Recognizes the human rights of all citizens, regardless of race, religion, gender, or disability. Accepts diversity in both Idaho and the United States and proclaims commitment to human rights.

*Status:* Passed House 58-9-2 on 2/05; in Senate State Affairs

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**HCR015 – Family Directed Service System** – Encourages the Department of Health and Welfare, in collaboration with the DD Council and others, to convene a task force to develop a family-directed service system for families of minor-age children with developmental disabilities similar to the self-directed system that has been developed over the last few years. This would permit families to make decisions and have some control over how Medicaid money is spent for their children.

*Status:* Passed House 67-0-3 on 2/26; **Senate Health and Welfare Committee hearing on March 12**

*Council Position:* Co-sponsoring

**HCR019 – Vocational Rehabilitation Division/Rules Rejected** – This concurrent resolution rejects certain sections of a pending rule (Docket 47-1010-0601) pertaining to Minimum Standards Governing Extended Employment Services; the rejected sections limited access to new employment providers.

*Status:* House adopted 68-0-2 on 3/1; in **Senate Health & Welfare, hearing on March 12**

*Council Position:* Support (see Docket below)

**Docket 47-1010-0601 – Minimum Standards Governing Extended Employment Services** – Outlines the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation administrative procedures for individuals with developmental disabilities. Includes integrated community employment and segregated employment provided by rehabilitation agencies and funded by the State General Fund.

*Status:* Amended by Senate and House Education Committees

*Council Position:* Support with sections deleted

**HCR022 – Disability History Month** – This will encourage both public and private schools to recognize Disability History Month as the month of October and provide instruction on disability history. Establishing Disability History Month will increase awareness and understanding about disabilities and encourage people with disabilities to continue to reach their goals.

*Status:* **Adopted by House on 3/05, Senate Education sent to floor with a “do pass” recommendation**

*Council Position:* Support

**S1011 – Disabled Persons, Hunting from Vehicle** – Amends the description of disability criteria to acquire a permit to hunt from a motorized vehicle. Makes criteria to obtain a license to hunt from a motorized vehicle consistent with IDAPA and matches criteria to acquire a disabled hunting and/or fishing license.

*Status:* Passed Senate 32-0-3 on 2/5; passed House 69-0-1 on 2/19; Signed by Governor, 2/23

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**S1040 – Educational Support, Teacher Training** – Appropriates \$2,000,000 to be used for the training regular classroom teachers who work with children with disabilities. Also trains and hires aids to assist those teachers, and hires substitute teachers in order for the teachers to meet with parents of children with disabilities, IEP development, and other planning duties involved with children with disabilities.

*Status:* Sent to Senate Finance on 1/22

*Council Position:* Support

**S1046 – First Grade Eligibility, Private Kindergartens** – Amends section 33-201 of Idaho Code which states that children who have attended 450 hours of private kindergarten in another state, but have not yet reached age six, are eligible for first grade in Idaho; however, those who attend 450 hours in Idaho are not eligible. This corrects the legislation to make it equal for children who attend private kindergarten in this state. It states that children who attend 450 hours of private kindergarten in Idaho or any other state are eligible for first grade in Idaho. This legislation also states that “school age” for children with disabilities begins at age 3 and continues until age 21.

*Status:* Sent to Senate Education Committee on 1/26

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**S1059 – Persons unable to sign documents** – Establishes the correct method to sign a document for a person who is physically incapable of signing. This bill allows a person to just place a mark rather than their signature.

*Status:* Sent to Judiciary and Rules Committee on 1/30

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**S1079 – Prekindergarten, School Age, Not State-funded** – Changes section 33-201 of Idaho Code to state that “school age” begins at age 4

and continues through age 21. Grants all school districts the authority to offer prekindergarten for children who reach age 4 by the first day of September.

*Status:* Passed Senate 19-16-0 on 3/08, in House Education Committee

*Council Position:* Support

**S1107 – Medical Insurance, No Genetic Discrimination** – Amends section 41-1313 of Idaho Code created by Senate Bill 1423 in 2006 which states that no company or person shall discriminate against a person in terms of medical insurance, premiums and policy fees. This bill changes “health benefit plan” to exclude long term disability insurance. It also changes the meaning of “disability insurance” to cover only medical and hospital expenses, not individually purchased products.

*Status:* Passed Senate 26-6-3 on 3/1; on second reading in House

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**S1143 – Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Treatment Grants** – This legislation expands the state mental health authority development grant program to include substance abuse services. This is a recommendation of the Interim Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse that met in 2006.

*Status:* Passed Senate 35-0-0 on 2/26; currently in House Health and Welfare Committee

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**S1147 – Children’s Mental Health, At Risk Teens** – This act would create a three-year pilot project to establish a new model for providing Idaho school districts with clinically trained substance abuse and mental health specialist counselors and specialist social workers to provide treatment services for teens in Idaho's rural areas. Intent is to increase crisis intervention and addiction recovery, address teen suicide, depression, drug and alcohol use, classroom disruption, violence, incarceration and other negative outcomes that may result from leaving youth mental health and substance abuse issues untreated in Idaho's schools and communities.

*Status:* Passed Senate 27-8-0 on 3/06, in House Health and Welfare Committee

*Council Position:* Support

**SCR102 – American Sign Language, Foreign Language Credit** – Encourages Idaho public high schools, private, and public colleges and universities to recognize American Sign Language as a foreign language

credit. It also encourages the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to provide information and incentive for schools to offer American Sign Language coursework as a foreign language credit.

*Status:* Passed Senate 1/30 on voice vote; adopted by House on voice vote on 2/20; to Secretary of State

*Council Position:* Support

**SCR103 – Deaf Children, Unique Educational Needs** – Encourages the Legislature to recognize the unique educational needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

*Status:* Passed Senate 27-7-1 on 2/1; adopted by House on voice vote on 2/20; to Secretary of State

*Council Position:* Support

**SCR108 – Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment** – Recommends that the state retain an independent contractor to review Idaho's current mental health and substance abuse treatment delivery system; this is the result of interim committee work.

*Status:* Adopted in Senate 32-0-3 on 2/14; **adopted by House 69-0-1 on 3/06, action complete**

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**SCR109 – Mental Health/ Assessment Tools** – The Interim Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse recommends that all state agencies involved with substance abuse/ mental health collaborate to develop standard statewide assessment tools substance abuse and mental health. This legislation requires the assessment tools to be reported to the legislative Health Care Task Force by January 1, 2008.

*Status:* Passed Senate 33-0-2 on 2/14; **adopted by House 69-0-1 on 3/06, action complete**

*Council Position:* Monitoring

**Docket 16-0309-0604/ Docket 16-0310-0602 – Medicaid Basic Plan/ Medicaid Enhanced Plan** – Clarifies policy, any services provided to a child during school must be billed to Medicaid by the school.

*Status:* Approved by Senate and House Health and Welfare Committees

*Council Position:* Monitoring